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4. HUNGARIANS LAUNCH GENERAL STRIKE

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The general strike launched by Hungarian workers on 10 December apparently is almost completely effective in both Budapest and the provinces. Although initially scheduled to end after two days, the strike may be extended if the regime continues to refuse the workers' demands. According to press reports, regime-controlled Radio Budapest has admitted that the strike is the "most complete" to date and that transportation is at a standstill. Hungarian police have been almost totally unsuccessful in their attempt to round up weapons.

The Soviet Union apparently still hopes that the Hungarian police will be able to restore order with only a minimal commitment of Soviet forces. It also apparently hopes to avoid a complete Soviet military dictatorship. But the regime's imposition of martial law and dissolution of the regional workers' councils has strengthened the determination of the workers to resist and may make inevitable the large-scale commitment of Soviet forces to support the relatively weak security units of the regime. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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5. SZCZECIN RIOT



The 10 December riot in Szczecin (Stettin), climaxed by an attack on the Soviet consulate, demonstrates that the Gomulka regime is prepared to act quickly to prevent situations

that might provide the USSR a pretext for intervention. This incident points up the problem confronting Gomulka in maintaining an alliance with the USSR in the face of a deep-seated hatred of the Russians which has been intensified by the Kremlin's suppression of the Hungarian uprising.

A Radio Warsaw broadcast on 11 December warned that the rioters would be punished with the "full severity of the law" and that "public opinion" would not "tolerate any leniency" toward them. This announcement continued the hard line the regime adopted toward public demonstrations after the Bydgoszcz disturbances on 18 November. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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6. POLITICAL SITUATION IN HAITI

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The "palace revolution" of 6 December in Haiti by which the army returned President Magloire to power shortly after his resignation has caused a sharp increase in unrest in the country. A successful general strike against the regime is reported to be in effect in the capital city. If the strike continues there may be considerable bloodshed, and a serious attempt may be made to oust Magloire.

Magloire is authorized in his new role as "chief of the executive power" to take "exceptional measures" to restore order. These may well include an attempt to break the strike by strong-arm tactics. Constitutional rights are suspended, and many oppositionists including a leading presidential candidate have been arrested since 6 December.

The army, a key factor in the situation, is supporting Magloire, but disagreement and disaffection among members of this force were reported in November. Army chief of staff General Levelt is apparently under arrest.

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